COMMANDERS DIGEST

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Race Relations

Secretary Of The Navy Emphasizes:

Solving Racial Problems Is Challenge To Armed Services

In an exclusive interview on the subject of race relations, Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee recently discussed the Navy's racial problems, policies and programs on a worldwide video-taped program of the American Forces Radio and Television Service in Washington. The following are his statements on what the Navy's current racial situation is, the very real progress the Navy has made to date, and what he expects every commanding officer in the Navy to do about racial problems.

This is the fourth in a series of high-level interviews on Race Relations and Equal Opportunity in the U.S. Armed Forces. The first two interviews, with General William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, and Robert F. Froehlke, Secretary of the Army, appeared in COMMANDERS DIGEST issues Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 1971, respectively. The third interview was with Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., USN, Chief of Naval Operations, which appeared Jan. 13, 1972.

One of the greatest challenges we face in this country is the challenge of solving the problems of racial discrimination and the lack of equal opportunity for members of the minority groups. It's a national challenge, and it's a challenge that we face in the armed services, including the United States Navy.

We have just got to make certain that everybody has the same chance—not only the same chance for advancement, the same chance for equal treatment in military justice, but also an equal chance for family housing off base.

Last year the Chief of Naval Operations and I had the impression that things were going along pretty well in equal opportunity and race relations. We weren't perfect, we knew, but we had somewhat of a feeling that in the Navy we were doing a good job. Then we met with a group of minority officers and enlisted men and their wives to see how we were doing.

The discussion during the meeting with this group, and particularly with the

wives, was very candid and forthright, and revealed to us that we had a long way to go. Particularly, as I said earlier, in the area of housing. I don't mean on-base housing, because I'm convinced that's done in a fair manner, but in off-base housing. When blacks go out to find housing for their families, as they move into a new area as a result of a change of station, they just plain haven't been able to get the housing that they would have if they were white.

I feel so strongly about this that I have recently directed that officers in command should advise local officials, community leaders, and business groups that future base closure decisions will take into account local area practices with respect to open housing.

As you know, we're in a situation in the Navy—and this is true of the other Services—of a declining military establishment. We have now some 600,000-plus people. When I first came here we had nearly 800,000. In two-and-a-half years that's a drop of about 20 per cent. That means that we just can't keep the same base structure. So when we analyze which bases we will keep, obviously one of the factors we consider is how our people are treated in the local community. Can they get decent housing for their families?

If we find an area where the minority groups are not able to get the housing

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RACE RELATIONS

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that we think they should get, vis-a-vis their white contemporaries, then that's a key factor in our decision on whether or not we close that base.

There is another major problem we are wrestling with. That is, in the Navy only one half of one per cent of our officers are black, and in the Marine Corps, only one per cent of them are black, whereas in a national average, the blacks constitute about 12 per cent of the population of the country. This has come about—the disparity in the percentage of officers that are black—has come about because there hasn't been the input of blacks through our NROTC, through the Naval Academy and through our officer candidate schools. We're making tremendous efforts to rectify this, to get more blacks and other minorities into the system.

For instance, in this year's entering class at the Naval Academy—in other words, the freshmen at Annapolis—we have 44 black midshipmen. Now, in all of Annapolis last year, in all four classes, there were only 45 blacks. So in one class we have as many blacks as there were in the entire Academy last year. That represents a distinct step forward.

In addition, we have Project BOOST, now three years old. Under this program, able minority men are selected and trained with a year of special schooling to prepare them for entry into officer programs and for college education at Navy expense.

Civilian Employes

As far as civilian employes are concerned, we've worked extremely hard over the past three years to bring minorities into the Navy's civilian work force and to provide equal opportunity for promotion. In our blue collar supervisory—in other words, the foremen—area, we now have about 10 per cent that are black. So that represents a step forward. We've made considerable progress in the whole area of civilian employment, but we can do more. And, we are attempting to do more.

One of the problems we have, as we go into the cutbacks, is that under Civil Service regulations the people we have to lay off are the ones that have been with us the shortest time. And, in many

Ensign Jesse L. Brown, USN, was the first black to become a naval aviator, and the first black naval officer killed in combat in Korea. A Navy ship, the DE-1089, will bear his name.

instances, those are the minorities that we've worked so hard to recruit. So that presents a tough problem.

To handle equal opportunity and race relations matters at the Navy Department level, we have John A. Burroughs Jr., a black civilian in the Manpower and Reserve Affairs office, who deals exclusively with the equal opportunity program.

Black Assistant Secretary

I also would like to point out that in the Navy Department we have a black Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. James Johnson, who is the Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. He is the highest-level black Presidential appointee in the Department of Defense, and we are pretty proud that in the Navy we have such a man.

No, I don't think that racial violence in the Navy and Marine Corps is increasing. Actually, it's decreasing. Now that doesn't mean we're home free. We've still got a lot of work to do. But these are some of the actions we have taken:

In every command, we have what's called a Human Relations Council, or Minorities Council—it can be called any number of things—to increase the communication between the minority groups and the command, and to identify problems. Often we'll find that when a situation is explained, it can be understood, or it turns out not to be a problem. For instance, you frequently hear that more blacks are receiving courts-martials than whites. Or, fewer blacks are being promoted. Or, the blacks are getting the rough duty.

Facts Are Checked

When one of these complaints is brought up we check the facts, the statistics. If the statistics show that blacks are not getting the promotion opportunities, or that the brig is composed of a disproportionate percentage of blacks, then it behooves us to look into it.

Here again, communication is the key. Communication gets back to that point of leadership. Any junior officer should know all of the men in his division, his platoon, his unit. It's terribly important for people to feel that they've got a route to express their grievances, whether their grievances are real or imagined.

I've heard the Commandant and the CNO say many times, "It isn't what the facts are. It's what the men think the facts are." If a man is convinced that of those who go to the brig, a larger percentage is black—if he thinks that—he's upset.

Over-all, I think we are establishing a darn good track record, both in the Marine Corps and in the Navy. Things that used to cause problems—for instance, the lack of cosmetics used by blacks in the PXs, or the lack of books on black history and black heritage in our libraries, or the lack of magazines in

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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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U.S. Foreign Policy: Arms Control Achievements, 1959-71

What have the United States and other nations accomplished to control the expansion of the world's arsenal of nuclear and conventional weapons?

Since the end of World War II, efforts have been made to place controls on the world's growing and increasingly sophisticated arsenal of nuclear and conventional weaponry. Over the past decade, these efforts have begun to produce results. Through a step-by-step process of negotiation, the world community is building an expanding framework of multilateral and bilateral arms control agreements. The successful conclusion of each of these agreements, in addition to serving its immediate objective, has helped to create a more favorable climate for the negotiation of subsequent arms control agreements.

The following are summaries of arms control agreements entered into since 1959:

Antarctic Treaty, 1959. The Antarctic Treaty, signed at Washington on Dec. 1, 1959, stipulates that Antarctica "shall . . . be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord." The treaty prohibits the establishment of military bases and the testing of any weapons in Antarctica and includes provisions for inspections. Under the terms of the treaty, the United States has conducted periodic on-site inspections, including on-site inspections of Soviet installations in the Antarctic. It helped break the ground for subsequent international agreements limiting the arms race.

The Antarctic Treaty was ratified by the United States June 18, 1960, and entered into force June 23, 1961, after it had been ratified by the 12 signatory countries that participated in the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year Scientific research in the Antarctic. Sixteen countries have now ratified or acceded to this treaty.

The Hot Line, 1963. The Direct Communications Agreement, signed on June 20, 1963, is a bilateral arrangement between the United States and the Soviet Union, designed to provide immediate communications between the two capitals to lessen the dangers of war resulting from error or misunderstanding. This agreement provides for the establishment of two direct-communication circuits between Washington and Moscow with a telegraph-teleprinter at each end. These circuits are commonly known as the "Hot Line." During the fifth session of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Hel-

PRAYER SERVICE. Inter-faith prayer services, held on the Pentagon concourse Dec. 22 to honor American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, were attended by wives of PW/MIAs and ranking military and civilian leaders of the Defense Department. Among the many officials attending, in the right foreground, left to right, are: Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird; Mrs. Evelyn Grubb, National Coordinator of the National League of Families; Mrs. Patricia Scharf; and Mrs. Bonnie L. Metzger. (Department of Defense Photo)

ARMS CONTROL

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sinki (see SALT section) the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to improve and modernize this communications link using space satellite communication systems.

Limited Test-Ban Treaty, 1963. The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water was signed at Moscow on Aug. 5, 1963, and entered into force on Oct. 10, 1963.[1] Under the terms of the treaty, an underground nuclear explosion is also prohibited "if such explosion causes radioactive debris to be present outside the territorial limits of the State under whose jurisdiction or control such explosion is conducted."

Agreement on a comprehensive test ban, prohibiting all nuclear weapons tests, had proven impossible because of verification. Both sides felt, however, that a ban on nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water, and in space could be adequately verified through natonal means, i.e., without on-site inspections.

The treaty has been signed by 106 countries; 105 countries have ratified or acceded to it.[2]

Outer-Space Treaty, 1967. The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon, and Other Celestial Bodies, signed at Washington, London, and Moscow on Jan. 27, 1967, governs the exploration and use of outer space.

The treaty states that the moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Article IV prohibits the installation of weapons on celestial bodies and placing into orbit any objects carrying nuclear weapons. The treaty also stipulates that astronauts be given all possible assistance in the event of accident or emergency landing and provides for return to the country of origin of all men and material retrieved from space exploration.

The outer-space treaty entered into force Oct. 10, 1967.[1] Eighty-nine countries have signed it; 60 countries have ratified or acceded to the treaty.[2]

Treaty For The Prohibition Of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, 1967. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America with Additional Protocols I and II, signed at Tlatelolco, Mexico City, on Feb. 14, 1967, is designed to make Latin America a nuclear-free zone. The treaty entered into force on April 22, 1968. Only Latin American countries may become parties to the treaty. Twenty-two countries have signed it; 19 countries have ratified or acceded to the treaty.

Additional Protocol II is designed for ratification by the nuclear powers who wish to respect the denuclearized status of the zone and agree not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against a party to the treaty.

The United States and the United Kingdom have each signed and ratified Protocol II, with clarifying statements. It entered into force for the United States May 12, 1971.[1]

Non-Proliferation Treaty, 1968: The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, opened for signature at Washington, London, and Moscow on July 1, 1968, entered into force March 5, 1970.[1]

The treaty provides that nuclear-weapon States will not transfer nuclear weapons or nuclear explosives to any nonnuclear-weapon State; and each nonnuclear-weapon state agrees not to acquire nuclear weapons or explosives. The nonnuclear-weapon States undertake to accept safeguards as set forth in agreements to be negotiated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to prevent the diversion of nuclear material from peaceful to military purposes. Detailed recommendations for the form and content of such agreements have been worked out by a 47-nation safeguards committee and approved by the IAEA Board of Governors for use in negotiating such agreements.

Ninety-seven countries have signed the NPT; 70 countries have ratified or acceded to the treaty.[2]

Seabed Arms Control Treaty, 1971. The Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof prohibits parties to the treaty from emplacing or emplanting nuclear weapons or other weapons of

RESEARCH/ENGINEERING

LASER RANGEFINDER. A new binocular-size laser rangefinder is operated by Army Captain M. Dennis Earl, right, at the U.S. Army Electronics Command's Combat Surveillance, Target and Systems Integration (CSTSI) Laboratory field facility at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. Specialist Fourth Class Joseph Nelson Jr., relays the range readings by radio. The new rangefinder weighs 4¼ pounds, has a range of six miles and gives a readout of target distances in less than a second. The device was developed by the CSTSI Laboratory. (Official U.S. Army Photo)

mass destruction on the seabed beyond a 12-mile coastal "seabed zone." This treaty thus bans emplacement of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction from nearly 70 per cent of the earth's surface. The seabed arms control treaty was opened for signature in Washington, London, and Moscow, February 11, 1971. It will come into effect when 22 countries (including the three depositary governments) have ratified. Eighty-three countries have signed the treaty; 19 countries have ratified it.

SALT And The CCD. The quest for more far-reaching arms control agreements continues.

Since the Fall of 1969, the United States and the Soviet Union have been engaged in a series of bilateral discussions in Vienna and Helsinki known as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). These negotiations made progress in identifying many key issues, but they bogged down over the scope of the initial agreement: what weapon systems should be covered. On May 20, 1971, President Nixon and the Soviet Government simultaneously announced that a decision had been made at the highest level to concentrate in SALT this year on working out an agreement to limit the deployment of antiballistic missile systems; and together with concluding an agreement to limit ABMs, the two countries would agree on certain measures with respect to the limitation of offensive strategic weapons. The establishment of this negotiating framework, together with the new political impetus given by the American and Soviet Governments, was widely regarded as a favorable augury for fruitful negotiations, and intensive discussions were soon undertaken rapid communications should the danger of nuclear war arise from such nuclear incidents or from detection of unidentified objects on early-warning systems; at Helsinki and Vienna to translate this understanding into concrete agreements.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM. Civilian and military education officials discuss a new advanced degree program offered at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., in conjunction with the Communications Electronics Systems Engineer Course taught at the Army Signal School there. Graduates of the intensive course will receive masters degrees in business administration from the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). From left are: Dr. Alexander Schure, President, NYIT; Brigadier General Richard C. Horne III, Commanding General, U.S. Army Signal Center and School; Claude L. Beckam, Government Communications Manager, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; and Dr. Vincent P. Cieri, Signal School Education Advisor. (Official U.S. Army Photo)

On Sept. 30, 1971, the United States and the Soviet Union signed two agreements, concluded by the American and Soviet SALT negotiators in parallel with the principal SALT negotiations, designed to reduce the risk of nuclear war. One of these agreements relates to the avoidance of accidental outbreak of nuclear war; the other agreement—which in part supplements the first—provides for modernization of the Washington-Moscow Direct Communications Link or "Hot Line."

The agreement to reduce the risk of accidental outbreak of nuclear war covers three broad areas:

(1) A pledge by both sides to take the steps each feels necessary to guard against accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons; (2) Arrangements for (3) Advance notification of certain planned missile launches.

The agreement to modernize the "Hot Line" takes into account rapid developments in communications technology and provides for the establishment of two satellite circuits (one by each party) as well as multiple terminals to increase both the capability and reliability of the communications link. The American communication circuits are being arranged through Intelsat; the Soviet circuits through the Molniya II system.

Along with the continuing SALT negotiations, these supplemental agreements serve to further reduce the risks of nuclear war.

Since 1962, the Geneva disarmament conference (the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, or CCD) has been the world's principal forum for negotiating multilateral arms control agreements.[3] The Geneva Conference served as the focal point for talks leading to the limited test-ban treaty, the

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[1] Coincident with the date of U.S. ratification.

[2] The United States regards the Byelo-Russian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) and the Ukrainian SSR as integral parts of the Soviet Union and not as independent states. The German Democratic Republic is not recognized by the United States; while these regimes have signed in Moscow, they are not included in the totals.

[3] Until its enlargement in 1969, the CCD was known as the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, or ENDC. Though it is not a United Nations body, the CCD reports its proceedings to the U.N. General Assembly and receives U.N. administrative support. The United States and the Soviet Union are permanent Co-Chairmen of the CCD. Other members of the CCD are: Canada, France (which has never occupied its seat), Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and Romania. In addition, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia are members.

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the sales racks of our PXs that blacks or other minority groups are interested in—all of these things have been corrected. And, if there is any place where they haven't been corrected, I would certainly like to hear about it.

Another problem we have had is that all too often in our clubs the entertainment has solely been directed toward one group. The blacks like soul music. The whites like country and western music. Well, what we try to do is mix it up, give a little of both, and we have instructed the local commanders to do this. Now, I don't send out a notice that 20 per cent of the music must be soul music and 60 per cent country music. Instead, we try to awaken within our local commanders a sensititvity to these matters of prejudice and discrimination.

Reflection of Society

And, I think that's being achieved; I really do. As you know, in the armed services, we are a reflection of society as a whole. When the young man comes to us—if he is an officer, he comes at about the age of 22; if an enlisted man, he would be 18 or 19—he brings with him his background, whether he comes from the South or the North, whether he grew up in a small town or a big city. If the family background has been one of prejudice, these young men carry prejudice with them into the armed services. We can't eradicate those views overnight. It takes persuasion. It takes education. It takes command attention. But, I think we are starting to do an excellent job.

You asked whether this whole matter of equal opportunity policy really boils down to little more than lip service. No. I just don't think that's true.

Some people do claim that. But I think that when they see the Human Relations Councils being set up at every level; when they see the opportunity to express and resolve grievances; when they see the attention that is being paid in the areas of education, and the specific things that I mentioned in the PXs, the libraries; when they see the promotion policies; when they see that we have an Assistant Secretary of the Navy from a minority group; when they see the promotion of [Rear] Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. to the post of admiral—the first black admiral in the United States Navy—I can't help but feel they must realize, that everybody must realize, that we are making progress.

'What we try to do is give the opportunity for the man who wants to get ahead, to get ahead.'

Navy Chief Warrant Officer Barnard A. Spriggs, a high school dropout, educated himself through Navy programs. Here, as Air Terminal Officer at Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station, Cuba, he chats with an airline stewardess.

Some Fear Discrimination

We do recognize, however, that to some people, especially those in the low ranks, this business of the chain of command, of getting the word to the top, can be quite a formidable thing. Quite frequently, these men don't realize that there are mechanisms to allow them to express a grievance without fear of recrimination.

There is, for instance, captain's mast on a ship. They have the privilege of going directly to the captain and explaining a problem to him. But many of the men are reluctant to do this. They just feel that that's too complicated. That is why we've set up Human Relations, or Civil Rights, or Race Relations Councils on the ships and within the commands. So there are ways the men can go to somebody they know and say, "I think that blacks aren't getting promotion opportunities. Nobody I know has been promoted."

"Equal opportunity," of course, means just that. When an opening comes up, say, for promotions to second class, you don't say, "Well, this man is black, and therefore he should be promoted to electrician's mate second class." He may not have the educational background for it. What you do then is open up educational opportunities so the man can learn to become an electrician's mate second class. We don't work on any quota basis so that on each ship 10 per cent of the chiefs must be black. What we try to do is give the opportunity for the man who wants to get ahead, to get ahead.

Equal Opportunity

When we speak of equal opportunity for blacks, of course, we also include the other minorities who encounter discrimination—the Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, the American Indians, the Filipinos, and the Japanese- and Chinese-Americans.

To sum up where the Navy stands at this point, I would say again that we are making a good deal of progress. We don't have the number of minority officers that we'd like to have. And, frankly, I don't see that being rectified for some years because we're just plain not getting the input. We'd like to have more minority officers. And, I'm talking about both the Navy and the Marines. We'd like to have more coming into our OCS, our NROTC, into Annapolis. Also, I'd like to see great improvements in civilian housing opportunities.

We are putting pressure on in every one of these areas, and I think we're making a lot of progress.

As for the future, what this problem requires is constant command attention. It requires my attention. It requires the attention of everybody in the Navy and Marine Corps—the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant—everybody. If this attention is given, creating an awareness of the problem, an awareness that there has been discrimination in the Navy as there has been in the rest of the country, then I think we'll be a long way toward solving the problem.

Equality of Results

What I'd like to see is not only equality of opportunity—that is, everybody having the same chance—but also

equality of results. I'd like to see the time when blacks and other minority groups are fully represented, the time when we do have sufficient numbers of minority admirals, or skippers, or officers generally, or chiefs, or enlisted men, throughout.

I am very optimistic about the future. I certainly don't think we can relax. I think we've got to keep plugging away. But let me tell you a little story.

I rode down on the plane from Rhode Island the other day with a black commander. And I asked him "Commander, how are things going?" He is now stationed in Washington, D.C. He said that when he came to Washington on a tour of duty four years ago, he went to a real estate agent. The real estate agent said, "Don't get in touch with us, we'll get in touch with you," and showed him only one house in two weeks.

Later he went out to sea. He came back to Washington a month ago for another tour of duty. He again contacted the real estate agent. This time the agent has just been running his legs off showing him houses. Houses everywhere. He said he and his wife haven't had a chance to catch their breath.

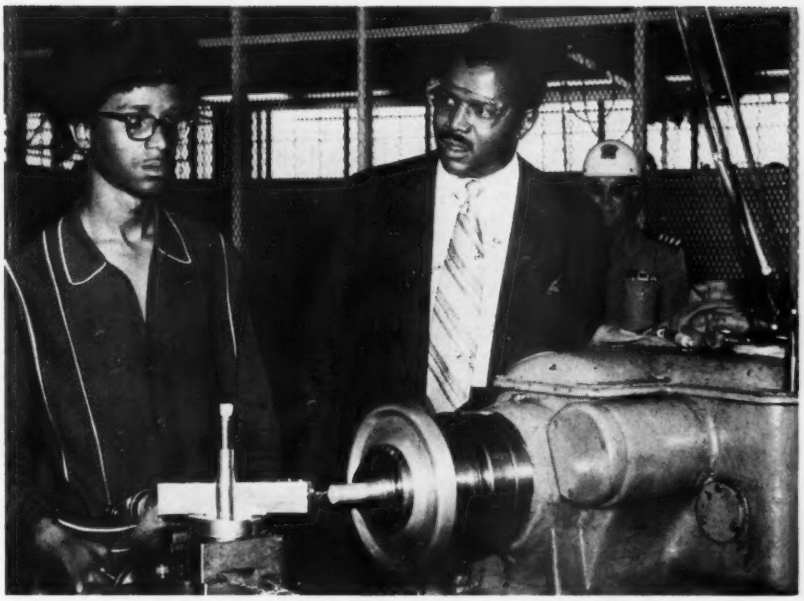
Now that's a tremendous advancement. I'm not claiming it's due to the Navy, but I just see the whole temper of the times—that minority groups are getting a better break. It's long overdue, and I'm for it 100 per cent.

DRUG ABUSE

NAVY ESTABLISHES NEW ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTER

Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee announced Jan. 5 the establishment of a Navy Alcohol Rehabilitation Center to be temporarily located at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va. Eventually, it will be located at the Naval Station at Norfolk, Va.

The 75-patient facility is patterned after a similar installation which has been in operation since 1967 at the Naval Hospital, Long Beach, Calif. Both facilities offer a program for rehabilitation of Navy and Marine Corps personnel suffering from alcoholism.



As Special Assistant for Equal Opportunity to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), John A. Burroughs Jr., center, makes frequent visits to naval installations. (All Official U.S. Navy Photos)

UNIFIED, SPECIFIED COMMANDS

The U.S. Readiness Command—the newest of the Nation's unified and specified commands—was officially established Jan. 1, in line with a worldwide reorganization of the unified command structure of U.S. military forces first outlined by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird's Report to Congress in March, 1971, and announced the following July.

Modifications to the unified command structure bring responsibilities in accord with requirements imposed by national policies and commitments.

The U.S. Readiness Command, austerely headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., is a follow-on of the old Strike Command-Middle East/Southern Asia and Africa South of the Sahara (Strike/MEAFSA), which has been disestablished.

The U.S. Readiness Command will control U.S.-based major combatant general-purpose forces not assigned to other unified commands. Generally, it is responsible to provide a reserve of combat-ready forces to reinforce other unified commands and assist the Joint Chiefs of Staff in joint-training requirements and doctrine.

U.S. Readiness Command began its first joint exercise Jan. 11 in an 18-day maneuver named Brave Shield I involving more than 7,000 men from Army and Air Force elements from 23 U.S. military installations.

In the exercise, U.S. Readiness Command forces will make a strategic deployment from Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, to a simulated overseas base for final staging—in this case, Lawson Army Airfield at Ft. Benning, Georgia. From Ft. Benning, the initial forces will be flown to an objective area at Fort Stewart, Georgia, to conduct a parachute assault. Follow-on forces will also be airlanded at Ft. Stewart.

Brave Shield I is the first of several U.S. Readiness Command exercises that will be conducted at different military installations in the United States during 1972.

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non-proliferation treaty, the seabed arms control treaty, and (though it was a bilateral agreement) the "Hot Line."

When the United States and the Soviet Union agreed in 1963 to ban nuclear testing in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater, they also agreed to seek a follow-up ban on underground testing. The verification issue has been a stumbling block to the realization of the latter. The Soviet Union has rejected on-site inspections, which the United States has said are a necessary supplement to insure that a comprehensive test ban is being respected.

The discussion of a ban on underground tests remains a major item on the CCD's agenda. In this connection, an informal meeting with experts was held in Geneva just after the opening of the CCD's 1971 summer session to discuss the question of the cessation of testing of nuclear weapons.

In the summer of 1969, the United Kingdom presented in the CCD a draft convention prohibiting the use, production, and development of biological agents of warfare and provisions for the destruction or conversion to peaceful uses of present stockpiles. The position of the Soviet Union at that time was that biological and chemical weapons should be treated together in the same instrument.

While these discussions were proceeding, President Richard Nixon unilaterally renounced the use of all biological weapons (including toxins) and methods of warfare, and said the United States would destroy its existing stockpiles of these weapons. This destruction was begun in the summer of 1971.

In a modification of its previous position, the Soviet Union agreed with the United States on a draft biological weapons convention, and in August, 1971, the United States and the Soviet Union submitted identical draft texts to the CCD. This draft convention prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons and toxins, and the parties pledge to conduct negotiations on measures for prohibiting the development, production, and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The draft convention was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for its consideration.

ARMED FORCES INITIATIVES

DOMESTIC ACTION

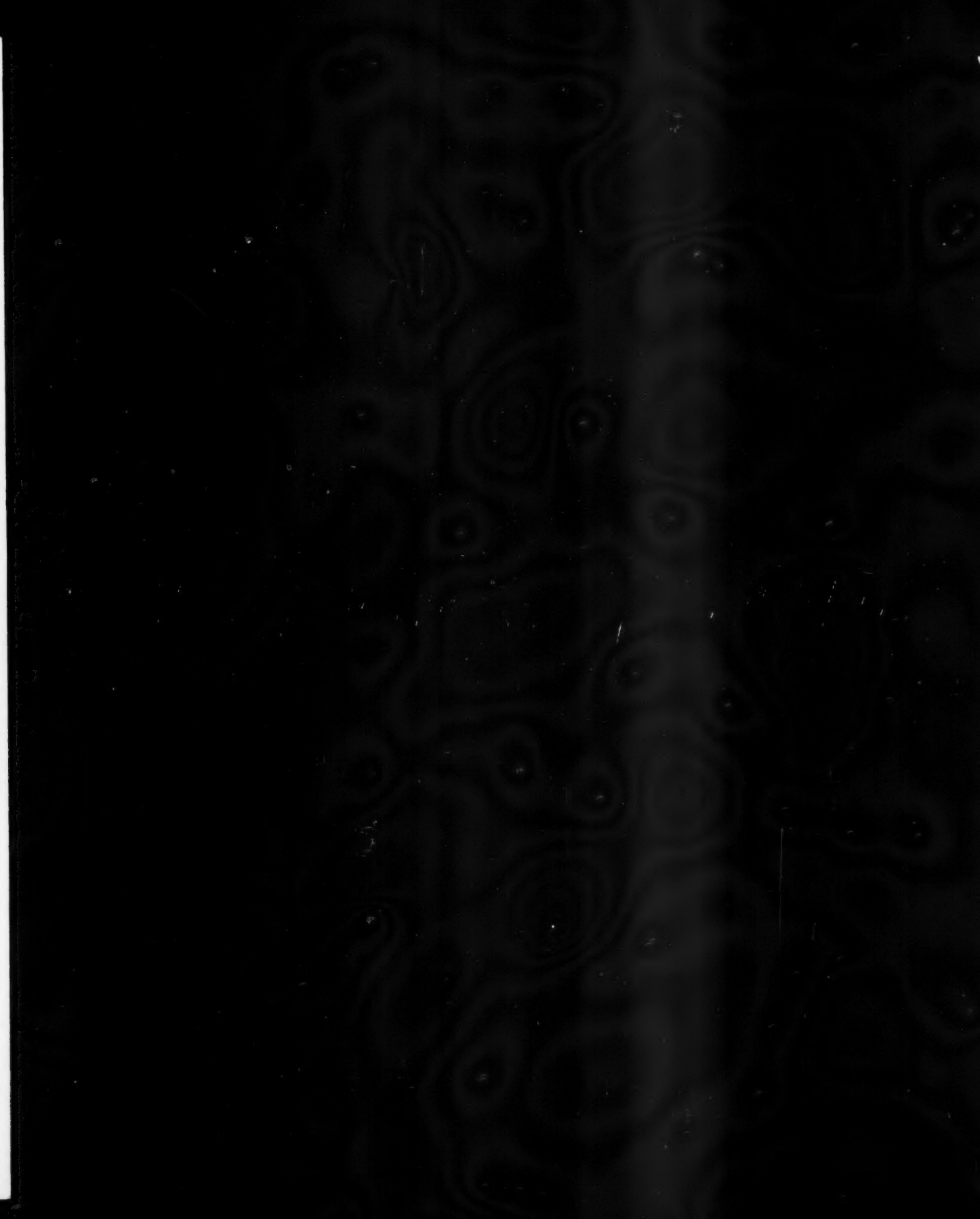
Allakaket, Alaska, received a new schoolhouse Dec. 7—by air. Delivery was part of a joint experimental program effort by the U.S. Army Alaska and the Alaskan Bureau of Indian Affairs, in coordination with the University of Alaska and funds from the Ford Foundation. Under the program, Alaskan natives assembled the building, provided teachers and now operate the school by themselves. Elements of the 242d Aviation Company, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, transported the building—complete with furnaces, insulation and decking—via huge helicopters to the site located more than 40 miles southwest of Bettles, Alaska.

PROJECT TRANSITION

A newly constructed house near Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, recently was sold for $25,000—ordinarily no great news event except that this particular house was built by soldiers in Project Transition-training at Fort Wood working together with students from a nearby high school. The Fort Wood Transition program offers training in a number of skills, including carpentry, heating and air-conditioning, automotive mechanics, roofing and welding.

HUMAN GOALS

Handicapped public school students at Albuquerque, N.M., are taking various skill training courses at nearby Kirtland Air Force Base. The courses are being taught by Kirtland personnel under a unique program, administered and monitored by the Albuquerque Public School System. Military on-the-job (OJT) training supervisors, in charge of more than 100 training locations embracing five types of jobs, write periodic reports on individual student progress. The students attend regular classes at school during the mornings, and have three to six hours of daily OJT at the base—all leading, after successful completion of the cooperative work-training course, to a high school diploma. Kirtland was selected for the program because military and civilian agencies on the base actively pursue many jobs and activities that have direct counterparts in off-base programs.

ECOLOGY. Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee delivers a hefty wallop to old glass bottles at a recycling facility located on the Davisville, Rhode Island, Seabee Center. Mr. Chafee toured the recycling site, believed the first of its kind to be operated on any military complex, on Dec. 20. During his stay, the Secretary awarded the Navy Commendation Medal to the originator of the recycling idea, Navy Lieutenant (j.g.) Donald R. Marsh, a young environmental protection officer at the Seabee Center.

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